You
Activities

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COORDINATOR REMINDERS

• Remind teachers that any volunteers who work from home on school materials need to sign a COVID-19 form.
  (located in the staff and coordinator handbooks)

• On September 1, the automatic volunteer follow-up background check rescreening process was implemented on VITAL Online. Remind volunteers that if they receive an email asking them to re-verify or opt out of their volunteer registration, they need to reply to the email or they will be deleted from the volunteer database. Over 500 people have not responded to the email requests.

• Volunteers who have been assisting this year must manually log their hours on their VITAL Online account. However, many volunteers do not remember their login. Please check in with volunteers and help them manually log their hours by providing their login information or logging hours for them.

Fall 2020 Volunteer Activities

While COVID-19 has limited volunteer involvement in our schools since they are not allowed in Thompson School District buildings, there are still some volunteers who have been assisting the schools in a variety of ways, following COVID-19 procedures set by the school district. Some activities have included making play dough, sewing masks, sewing dolls, assimilating school materials, cutting out materials, volunteering as crossing guards, laminating books, being filmed reading books for Read Aloud Day, handing out prizes and assisting with traffic flow at the Thompson Education Foundation’s Halloween Trick-or-Treat Drive Thru, and much more. We hope that in Spring 2021 we will be able to expand those opportunities to keep volunteers engaged in students’ lives.

I’m Different Just Like You

Have you ever asked someone you disagree with, help me to understand why you feel or think that way? If so, were you able to do it in a loving and respectful way? Recently Dr. Melinda Mingo presented on diversity and inclusiveness at the Directors of Volunteers in Agencies Conference. Her work experiences demonstrated an open and non-judgmental approach to developing unity and building an inclusive environment for volunteers. She reminded me of the movie Best of Enemies, which was based on the true story of the unlikely relationship between Ann Atwater, an outspoken civil rights activist, and C.P. Ellis, a local Ku Klux Klan leader, who both co-chaired a community summit in 1971 on desegregation in Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Mingo talked about factors which I saw demonstrated in that story that led to a positive resolution and an unexpected friendship that bridged differences. The factors were three C’s: Compassion, Commitment, and Courage. Atwater’s compassion for Ellis’s struggles with his child, Ellis’s commitment to continue co-chairing the summit when he didn’t want to, and Atwater’s courage to speak out, even when she was in danger, all played a part in reaching a resolution. Dr. Mingo said that in order to have a true intent to overcome differences, you must allow time to build trust. Respect the other person, pursue Understanding, and have Empathy (the willingness to listen to others). She identified various characteristics as leading to successful steps towards helping to create an inclusive environment. Having a growth mindset and the heart of a learner, being able to accept feedback and be responsive to that feedback, embodying humility and being aware of our own biases allows both sides to better discuss conflicts. And while you might think that these ideas are not realistic, it is truly possible that all of us experience life differently, and being aware of our own biases allows both sides to better discuss conflicts.

READ ALOUD DAY

November 10, Tuesday
Thompson School District will celebrate Read Aloud Day again on Tuesday, November 10. Due to COVID-19, it will be done differently this year. Volunteers in the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program were filmed reading books outside, following social distancing guidelines. Videos were then edited and made available to teachers to show online or in their classrooms. In this way, volunteers were still able to help develop literacy and educational development without having to enter schools.

COORDINATOR HOLIDAY DRIVE THRU

December 3, Thursday, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
TSD Administration Building, 800 S. Taft Ave., Loveland

We want to thank coordinators for sticking with TSD during this challenging time by providing a fun break to de-stress during the holidays. Take time out for yourself to drive through the Administration Building parking lot to pick up a goody bag and grab a cup of hot chocolate and cookies.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 25, Wednesday –November 27, Friday
No school and district offices will be closed.

WINTER BREAK

December 21, Monday—January 1, Friday
No school and district offices will be closed.

Upcoming Events